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HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY  
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
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NGUYEN, ALLEN H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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03/19/2009

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

JERRY.SHORMA@HP.COM  
mkraft@hp.com  
ipa.mail@hp.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/764,779	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HELMS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Allen H. Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 25-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-12 and 25-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7, 13 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

- This office action is responsive to the following communication:  
Amendment filed on 12/16/2008.
- Claims 1-14, 25-29 are currently pending in the application.

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 12/16/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

2. With respect to applicants' arguments that "*Kuroyanagi* fails to show or suggest a client agent that is executed in the client to provide a first report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator".

In reply: Kuroyanagi '469 does not explicitly show a client agent that is executed in the client to provide a first report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Suzuki '652. In particular, Suzuki '652 teaches a client agent (in some functional media such as software executing commands on behalf of Job scheduling device 12, client agent further serves as an interface between Terminal 11 and Request Control Section 14, fig. 1 ) executed in the client (Terminal 11, fig. 1) to provide a first report (a status acknowledgement of the document, col. 16, lines 45-50) of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator (i.e., the job

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scheduling section 15 obtains job information with respect to a job identifier XX (Job ID) at the leading end of the printer queue 22 (step S201); Col. 18, lines 44-50, figs. 1, 4);

3. With respect to applicants' arguments that "*Kuroyanagi* fails to show or suggest a print agent that is executed in the printer to provide a second report of the parametric data associated with the print job aggregator after the print job is finished printing".

In reply: *Kuroyanagi* '469 does not explicitly show a print agent that is executed in the printer to provide a second report of the parametric data associated with the print job aggregator after the print job is finished printing.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Suzuki '652. In particular, Suzuki '652 teaches a print agent (in some functional media such as software executing commands on behalf of Job Execution Section 13, print agent further serves as an interface between Job Execution section 13 and Job Execution Section Control Section 16, fig. 1) executed in the printer (Job Execution Section 13, fig. 1) to provide a second report (the job execution section control section 16 transfers a status acknowledgement relating to the job processing which was obtained from the job execution section 13 to the job scheduling section 15; see col. 16, lines 55-60, fig. 1) of the parametric data associated with the print job (the job request as job attribute information of the job; Col. 14, lines 60-65, col. 42, lines 35-65 and col. 45, lines 5-25) to the print job aggregator (Job Scheduling device 12, fig. 1) after the print job is finished printing (printing completed, col. 56, lines 45-50), where the print job aggregator stores the first and second reports of the parametric data in a

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memory (The queue management section 17 prepares various types of queue in compliance with an instruction from the job scheduling section 15, and stores a series of queue objects. Since a queue object of a corresponding job is stored in a queue. Practical documents are stored in memory associated with queues; Col. 15, lines 60-65 and col. 16, lines 60-65, fig. 1).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-5, 8-12, 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroyanagi (US 6,597,469) in view of Suzuki et al. (US 6,213,652).

Regarding claim 1, Kuroyanagi '469 discloses a print auditing network (Fig. 1), comprising:

a client (Client user 20, fig. 1) that originates a print job for printing (i.e., a common output apparatus for print jobs requested by client users on a network; Col. 2, lines 42-45), the print job including parametric data (a print ID / print output destination data and output priority data contained in the print jobs 131, col. 9, lines 1-5 and col. 18, lines 1-5) associated with the print job (i.e., a print job requested by each client user assigned a specific print job management identification number; Col. 2, lines 53-56);

a printer (Image Input Device 200, fig. 1) in data communication (Network 10, fig. 1) with the client (Computer 20, fig. 1) that is employed to print the print job (i.e., a print job requested by each user instructs the image input/output device 200 to output the received print job; Col. 9, lines 1-5), the print job being transmitted from the client to the printer (i.e., a print job requested by the client 20 and an inquiry command for an output state of the print job; Col. 10, lines 61-62);

a print job aggregator (Control Unit 320, fig. 2C) in data communication (Input/Output Interface 310, fig. 2C) with the client and the printer (i.e., a manage server 300 connected to the network including input device 200 and computer 20 for managing the number of outputs of the print and copy jobs; Col. 8, lines 50-55, fig. 1);

Kuroyanagi '469 does not explicitly show a client agent executed in the client to provide a first report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator; and a print agent executed in the printer to provide a second report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator after the print job is finished printing, where the print job aggregator stores the first and second reports of the parametric data in a memory.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Suzuki '652. In particular, Suzuki '652 teaches:

a client agent (in some functional media such as software executing commands on behalf of Job scheduling device 12, client agent further serves as an interface between Terminal 11 and Request Control Section 14, fig. 1 ) executed in the client (Terminal 11, fig. 1) to provide a first report (a status acknowledgement of the

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document, col. 16, lines 45-50) of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator (i.e., the job scheduling section 15 obtains job information with respect to a job identifier XX (Job ID) at the leading end of the printer queue 22 (step S201); Col. 18, lines 44-50, figs. 1, 4);

a print agent (in some functional media such as software executing commands on behalf of Job Execution Section 13, print agent further serves as an interface between Job Execution section 13 and Job Execution Section Control Section 16, fig. 1) executed in the printer (Job Execution Section 13, fig. 1) to provide a second report (the job execution section control section 16 transfers a status acknowledgement relating to the job processing which was obtained from the job execution section 13 to the job scheduling section 15; see col. 16, lines 55-60, fig. 1) of the parametric data associated with the print job (the job request as job attribute information of the job; Col. 14, lines 60-65, col. 42, lines 35-65 and col. 45, lines 5-25) to the print job aggregator (Job Scheduling device 12, fig. 1) after the print job is finished printing (printing completed, col. 56, lines 45-50), where the print job aggregator stores the first and second reports of the parametric data in a memory (The queue management section 17 prepares various types of queue in compliance with an instruction from the job scheduling section 15, and stores a series of queue objects. Since a queue object of a corresponding job is stored in a queue. Practical documents are stored in memory associated with queues; Col. 15, lines 60-65 and col. 16, lines 60-65, fig. 1).

In view of the above, having the system of Kuroyanagi and then given the well-established teaching of Suzuki, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill

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in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Kuroyanagi as taught by Suzuki to include: a client agent executed in the client to provide a first report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator; and a print agent executed in the printer to provide a second report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator after the print job is finished printing, where the print job aggregator stores the first and second reports of the parametric data in a memory, since Suzuki stated in col. 1, lines 64-66 that such a modification would provide a job processing system capable of improving job processing efficiency.

Regarding claim 2, Suzuki '652 teaches the print auditing network (a job processing system, figs. 1, 27), further comprising:

a print server (Job Scheduling device 12, fig. 1) in data communication (through a network, col. 14, line 56) with the client (Terminal 11, fig. 1), the printer (Job Execution Section 13, fig. 1) and the print job aggregator (Job Scheduling Section 15, fig. 1);

a print server agent (in some functional media such as software executing commands on behalf of Job Scheduling device 12, print server agent further serves as an interface between Job Scheduling device 12 and Job Execution Section Control Section 16 / Request Control Section 14, fig. 1) executed in the print server to provide a third report (The job scheduling section 15 of Job Scheduling device receives a status acknowledgement of the document, to which the processing request was issued, from the job execution section 13 via the job execution section control section 16, and



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executes the scheduling of another job; Col. 16, lines 45-51, fig. 1) of the parametric data associated with the print job (the job request as job attribute information of the job; Col. 14, lines 60-65, col. 42, lines 35-65 and col. 45, lines 5-25, fig. 30a) to the print job aggregator.

Regarding claim 3, Suzuki '652 teaches the print auditing network (a job processing system, figs. 1, 27), wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job (i.e., data 280 delivered from the client is made up of a job attribute 281 which serves as a header of the data, and a number of document data items; Col. 44, lines 60-65 and col. 45, lines 1-25, fig. 30a).

Regarding claim 4, claim 4 has been analyzed and rejected w/r to claim 3 above.

Regarding claim 5, Suzuki '652 teaches the print auditing network, wherein a globally unique identifier is associated with each of the first, second, and third reports of the parametric data and the globally unique identifier is the same in the first, second and third reports (the request control section 14 prepares a queue object for that print job such as a report (**which retains information common to all documents**) and sets a job information section. In this job information section, information which specifies that job is prepared on the basis of the attribute information set for the leading job request such as a Job identifier; Col. 15, lines 15-25, fig. 2).

Regarding claim 8, claim 8 is the method claim of device claim 1. Therefore, method claim 8 is rejected for the reason given in device claim 1.

Regarding claim 9, Suzuki '652 teaches the method (Figs. 1, 27, 42), further comprising updating the parametric data of the print job in the printer during printing (The hold queue q2 queues job information of unscheduled job, and the user can **edit** job information /attribute retained in the hold queue q2; see col. 54, lines 40-45, fig. 42).

Regarding claim 10, Kuroyanagi '469 discloses the method (Fig. 1), wherein transmitting the print job from the client (Client 20, fig. 1) to the printer (Image Input device 200, fig. 1) further comprises:

transmitting the print job from the client to a print server that is in data communication with the client (i.e., the print server receives from the network a print job requested by each client user assigned a specific print job management identification number; Col. 3, lines 25-30);

transmitting the print job (Print Job 131, fig. 2A) from the print server (100, fig. 2A) to the printer (I200, fig. 2B) that is in data communication (210, fig. 2B) with the print server (i.e., instructs the composite function image forming apparatus to print out the received print job, and manages the number of print outputs of the print job in correspondence with the print job management identification number; Col. 3, lines 29-32);

the method further comprising transmitting a third report of the parametric

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data from the print server to the print job aggregator (i.e., a print server 100 for receiving from the network 10 a print job requested by the client 20 and managing the number of outputs of the received print job; and a department manage server 300 connected to the network for managing the number of outputs of the print and copy jobs; Col. 8, lines 50-55).

Regarding claim 11, Suzuki '652 teaches the print auditing network (a job processing system, figs. 1, 27), wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job (i.e., data 280 delivered from the client is made up of a job attribute 281 which serves as a header of the data, and a number of document data items; Col. 44, lines 60-65 and col. 45, lines 1-25, fig. 30a).

Regarding claim 12, Suzuki '652 discloses the method, wherein the first report of parametric data, the second report of parametric data, and the third report of parametric data include the same globally unique identifier (the request control section 14 prepares a queue object for that print job such as a report (**which retains information common to all documents**) and sets a job information section. In this job information section, information which specifies that job is prepared on the basis of the attribute information set for the leading job request such as a Job identifier; Col. 15, lines 15-25, fig. 2).

Regarding claim 25, Kuroyanagi '469 discloses a print auditing network (Fig. 1), comprising:

a client (Client user 20, fig. 1) that originates a print job for printing (i.e., a common output apparatus for print jobs requested by client users on a network; Col. 2, lines 42-45), the print job including parametric data (a print ID / print output destination data and output priority data contained in the print jobs 131, col. 9, lines 1-5 and col. 18, lines 1-5) associated with the print job (i.e., a print job requested by each client user assigned a specific print job management identification number; Col. 2, lines 53-56);

a printer (Image Input Device 200, fig. 1) in data communication (Network 10, fig. 1) with the client (Computer 20, fig. 1) that is employed to print the print job (i.e., a print job requested by each user instructs the image input/output device 200 to output the received print job; Col. 9, lines 1-5), the print job being transmitted from the client to the printer (i.e., a print job requested by the client 20 and an inquiry command for an output state of the print job; Col. 10, lines 61-62);

a print job aggregator (Control Unit 320, fig. 2C) in data communication (Input/Output Interface 310, fig. 2C) with the client and the printer (i.e., a manage server 300 connected to the network including input device 200 and computer 20 for managing the number of outputs of the print and copy jobs; Col. 8, lines 50-55, fig. 1);

Kuroyanagi '469 does not explicitly show means in the client for providing a first report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator; and means in the printer for providing a second report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator after the print job is finished printing, where the print job aggregator stores the first and second reports of the parametric data in a memory.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Suzuki '652. In particular, Suzuki '652 teaches means in the client (software executing commands on behalf of Job scheduling device 12, means further serves as an interface between Terminal 11 and Request Control Section 14, fig. 1) for providing a first report (a status acknowledgement of the document, col. 16, lines 45-50) of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator (i.e., the job scheduling section 15 obtains job information with respect to a job identifier XX (Job ID) at the leading end of the printer queue 22 (step S201); Col. 18, lines 44-50, figs. 1, 4);

means in the printer (software executing commands on behalf of Job Execution Section 13, means further serves as an interface between Job Execution section 13 and Job Execution Section Control Section 16, fig. 1) for providing a second report (the job execution section control section 16 transfers a status acknowledgement relating to the job processing which was obtained from the job execution section 13 to the job scheduling section 15; see col. 16, lines 55-60, fig. 1) of the parametric data associated with the print job (the job request as job attribute information of the job; Col. 14, lines 60-65, col. 42, lines 35-65 and col. 45, lines 5-25) to the print job aggregator (Job Scheduling device 12, fig. 1) after the print job is finished printing (printing completed, col. 56, lines 45-50), where the print job aggregator stores the first and second reports of the parametric data in a memory (The queue management section 17 prepares various types of queue in compliance with an instruction from the job scheduling section 15, and stores a series of queue objects. Since a queue object of a corresponding job

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is stored in a queue. Practical documents are stored in memory associated with queues; Col. 15, lines 60-65 and col. 16, lines 60-65, fig. 1).

In view of the above, having the system of Kuroyanagi and then given the well-established teaching of Suzuki, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Kuroyanagi as taught by Suzuki to include: means in the client for providing a first report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator; and means in the printer for providing a second report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator after the print job is finished printing, where the print job aggregator stores the first and second reports of the parametric data in a memory, since Suzuki stated in col. 1, lines 64-66 that such a modification would provide a job processing system capable of improving job processing efficiency.

Regarding claim 26, Suzuki '652 teaches the print auditing network (a job processing system, figs. 1, 27), further comprising:

a print server (Job Scheduling device 12, fig. 1) in data communication (through a network, col. 14, line 56) with the client (Terminal 11, fig. 1), the printer (Job Execution Section 13, fig. 1) and the print job aggregator (Job Scheduling Section 15, fig. 1);

means in the print server (in some functional media such as software executing commands on behalf of Job Scheduling device 12, print server agent further serves as an interface between Job Scheduling device 12 and Job Execution Section Control Section 16 / Request Control Section 14, fig. 1) for providing a third report (The job

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scheduling section 15 of Job Scheduling device receives a status acknowledgement of the document, to which the processing request was issued, from the job execution section 13 via the job execution section control section 16, and executes the scheduling of another job; Col. 16, lines 45-51, fig. 1) of the parametric data associated with the print job (the job request as job attribute information of the job; Col. 14, lines 60-65, col. 42, lines 35-65 and col. 45, lines 5-25, fig. 30a) to the print job aggregator.

Regarding claim 27, Suzuki '652 teaches the print auditing network (a job processing system, figs. 1, 27), wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job (i.e., data 280 delivered from the client is made up of a job attribute 281 which serves as a header of the data, and a number of document data items; Col. 44, lines 60-65 and col. 45, lines 1-25, fig. 30a).

Regarding claim 28, Suzuki '652 teaches the print auditing network (a job processing system, figs. 1, 27), wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job (i.e., data 280 delivered from the client is made up of a job attribute 281 which serves as a header of the data, and a number of document data items; Col. 44, lines 60-65 and col. 45, lines 1-25, fig. 30a).

Regarding claim 29, Suzuki '652 teaches the print auditing network, wherein a globally unique identifier is associated with each of the first, second, and third reports of the parametric data and the globally unique identifier is the same in the first, second and

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third reports (the request control section 14 prepares a queue object for that print job such as a report (**which retains information common to all documents**) and sets a job information section. In this job information section, information which specifies that job is prepared on the basis of the attribute information set for the leading job request such as a Job identifier; Col. 15, lines 15-25, fig. 2).

6. Claims 6-7, 13-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 6, the prior art of the record fails to show the print auditing network, wherein:

the client agent provides the first report of the parametric data to the print job aggregator by transmitting a copy of the header of the print job to the print job aggregator before the print job is transmitted from the client to the print server;

the print server agent provides the third report of the parametric data to the print job aggregator by transmitting a copy of the header to the print job aggregator before the print job is transmitted to the printer;

the printer agent provides the second report of the parametric data to the



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print job aggregator by transmitting the header to the print job aggregator after the print job is finished printing.

Regarding claim 7, the claim is allowable for the reasons given in claim 6.

Regarding claim 13, the prior art of the record fails to show the method, wherein:

the transmitting of the first report of the parametric data from the client to the print job aggregator further comprises transmitting a copy of the header of the print job from the client to the print job aggregator; and

the transmitting of the third report of the parametric data from the print server to the print job aggregator further comprises transmitting a copy of the header of the print job from the print server to the print job aggregator; and

the transmitting of the second report of the parametric data from the printer to the print job aggregator further comprises transmitting a copy of the header of the print job to the print job aggregator.

### ***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kawamoto (US 2003/0140008) discloses image processing system and image processing service method.

Mesa et al. (US 2003/0048303) discloses a user sends a print job (such as a report) to the printer server, which acts as the gatekeeper for the printer and the server sends the print job to the printer.

Cherry et al. (US 2003/0151762) discloses agent 112 then sends the print job request to monitoring device/server.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KING Y. POON can be reached on (571) 272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Allen H. Nguyen/

Examiner, Art Unit 2625